BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension or)	
Revocation of the Educator)	CONSENT ORDER OF
Certificate of Terry L. Housman)	SUSPENSION
Certificate 209317	(

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on April 9, 2008. On January 2, 2008, the South Carolina Department of Education (Department) sent Terry L. Housman a notice of his right to a hearing before the State Board concerning the possible suspension or revocation of his South Carolina educator certificate 209312 by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail. Mr. Housman received the notice as evidenced by a postal receipt bearing his signature. On January 13, 2008, Mr. Housman sent a letter to the Department acknowledging the allegation that he accessed adult pornographic images on his school computer and that he was guilty of unprofessional conduct. Mr. Housman has agreed to resolve the matter without a hearing and has consented to the voluntary suspension of his certificate for a period of two years which would commence on April 9, 2008 and end on April 8, 2010. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the suspension of Mr. Housman's certificate for a period of two years.



FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Housman holds a valid South Carolina educator certificate and has thirteen years of teaching experience. He has no record of prior disciplinary action with the State Board. Mr. Housman was employed as an English teacher at Chester High School in the Chester County School District

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(District) from 200% until he resigned on September 21, 2007, during an investigation into allegations that he repeatedly accessed adult pornographic images on his school computer. Mr. Housman had signed an acknowledgment of the District's Network Acceptable Use Policy Terms and Conditions each year of his employment. When confronted by a district technology employee, Mr. Housman admitted he had viewed the images on his school computer and that he had violated the District policy

On January 2, 2008, the Department sent Mr. Housman a notice of his right to a hearing before the State Board concerning the possible suspension or revocation of his South Carolina educator certificate 209312 by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail. Mr. Housman received the notice as evidenced by a postal receipt bearing his signature. On January 13, 2008, Mr. Housman sent a letter to the Department acknowledging the allegation that he accessed adult pornographic images on his school computer and that he was guilty of unprofessional conduct. Mr. Housman stated in his letter that he had let down his students, administrators, fellow staff and family. Mr. Housman informed the Department that he voluntarily began counseling in September 2007. Mr. Housman has agreed to resolve the matter without a hearing and has consented to the voluntary suspension of his certificate for a period of two years which would commence on April 9, 2008 and end on April 8, 2010. During the period of suspension, Mr. Housman agrees to undergo a psychiatric evaluation and a psychosexual evaluation and comply with all recommended treatment and counseling.

Accepted: Initial Date: 29 Mand & Tenry L Housman, 209312

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (Supp. 2006). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. §

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59-25-160 (2004). The State Board finds that the substantial evidence presented supports its decision to accept the suspension of Mr. Housman's educator certificate 209312 for a period of two years from April 9, 2008, through April 9, 2010. During the period of suspension, Mr. Housman agrees to undergo a psychlatric evaluation and a psychosexual evaluation and comply with all recommended treatment and counseling. If Mr. Housman wishes to have his educator certificate reinstated at the end of the suspension period, Mr. Housman shall make a written request to the Department's Office of General Counsel to appear before the State Board for a Character and Fitness Review. Mr. Housman shall provide the State Board with documentation of the psychiatric and psychosexual evaluations and successful completion of treatment and counseling; employment information during the period of suspension; community service records; letters of support and a SLED background check.

South gardina State Board of Education

Al Simpson, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina April 9, 2008

I, Torry F. Housman, SC Teaching Certificate 299312, do hereby agree to the proposed Consent Order of Suspension, consisting of two pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the State Doard of Education for approval on Wegnesday, April 9.,2008.

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